

Date Mailed September 14, 2001

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Petition of Wisconsin Bell, Inc., for a Section 271 Checklist
Proceeding

6720-TI-170

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING
AND
INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

THIS IS A PROCEEDING to investigate Wisconsin Bell, Inc.'s, d/b/a Ameritech Wisconsin, ("Ameritech") compliance with the competitive checklist requirements set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 271(c) as enacted by the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Communications Act"). Before a Bell Operating Company such as Ameritech can enter Interlata services (to provide long distance telecommunications), it must first open its own local telephone market to competition pursuant to Section 271 of the Communications Act. Following a section 271 application with the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"), and, within 20 days after issuance of an FCC Initial Public Notice, the FCC expects the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin ("Commission") to submit written factual findings and reach reasoned legal conclusions concerning Ameritech's compliance with the requirements of section 271. The instant proceeding is to provide the Commission with the findings it needs to fully evaluate Ameritech's compliance with section 271 in order for the Commission to make the necessary assessment to form a recommendation to the FCC.

This Notice opens this proceeding for investigation and assessment of costs based on Ameritech's petition seeking such a proceeding. At this time, Ameritech has not submitted a formal application to commence review on the merits. The Commission expects that when Ameritech submits an application, that the Commission will seek comments from interested persons and establish the process and dates for comments.

Documentation expected to be filed in this proceeding may be quite lengthy. Ameritech submits, and the Commission agrees, that Ameritech serve interested persons with a CD-ROM containing the filing in a portable document file (pdf) format. Any person for whom service by CD-ROM would present a technical infeasibility may work alternative arrangements with Ameritech.

Ameritech shall serve Commission staff with a CD-ROM of its filing. The following documents must also be filed in paper form: (a) Ameritech's Brief in Support of its Application, (b) any affidavits, (c) any exhibits referenced by and attached directly to such affidavits, and (d) any performance data the applicant submits to demonstrate compliance with section 271. All

other documents, including operations support systems (OSS) guides and manuals that Ameritech provides to competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) and records from Commission proceedings for which Ameritech is filing its application that do not fall within items (a-d) above, may be filed on CD-ROM only subject to Commission approval.

Persons who consider themselves to be potential parties should participate in this proceeding. Any person desiring to become a party shall file a request pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(2m) and Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 2.32(3) no later than 14 days from the date of this notice. The request shall be addressed to Administrative Law Judge David C. Whitcomb, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854.

This will be treated as a Class 1 proceeding as defined in Wis. Stat. § 227.01(3)(a).

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the applicant. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from the applicant in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

This is a Type III action under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(3). Since no unusual circumstances have come to the attention of the Commission which indicate that significant environmental consequences are likely, neither an environmental impact statement under Wis. Stat. § 1.11 nor an environmental assessment is required.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the docket coordinator listed below.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to David Albino at (608) 266-1567 or Nick Linden at (608) 266-8950.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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